

SUMMARY

DR. ALLYSON ENID KOFFMAN (CPSO# 71137)

1. Disposition

On December 19, 2018, the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (the Committee) ordered family medicine specialist Dr. Koffman to complete a specified continuing education and remediation program (SCERP). The SCERP requires Dr. Koffman to:

- Practice under the guidance of a Clinical Supervisor acceptable to the College for twelve months.
- Complete the next available session of the University of Toronto Safe Opioid Prescribing Series, and the Canadian Medical Protection Association (CMPA) Online modules, Documentation I and Documentation II.
- Undergo a reassessment of her practice by an assessor selected by the College approximately six months following completion of the program.

2. Introduction

The College received information from a Patient raising concerns about Dr. Koffman's prescribing and maintenance of proper boundaries, and subsequently, the Committee approved the Registrar's appointment of investigators to conduct a broad review of Dr. Koffman's practice. As part of this investigation, the Registrar appointed a Medical Inspector (MI) to review a number of Dr. Koffman's patient charts, interview Dr. Koffman, and submit a written report.

Dr. Koffman responded to the MI's report, and advised that she has taken steps to address charting deficiencies and is actively recruiting physicians to her practice to assist with consultations and patient workload. Dr. Koffman forwarded an opinion report from an expert in pain management and psychotherapy, who reviewed the same charts as the MI.

3. Committee Process

A General Panel of the Committee, consisting of public and physician members, met to review the relevant records and documents related to the investigation. The Committee always has before it applicable legislation and regulations, along with policies that the College has developed, which reflect the College's professional expectations for physicians practising in Ontario. Current versions of these documents are available on the College's website at www.cpso.on.ca, under the heading "Policies & Publications."

4. Committee's Analysis

The Committee noted that the MI was of the view that Dr. Koffman exhibited several deficiencies in her practice. The Committee agreed that Dr. Koffman fell below the standard with respect to her inadequate documentation of medication, inadequate follow-up of urine toxicology screens, inadequate follow-up regarding specialist consultation, and inadequate follow-up of test results; and that this posed a risk of harm to patients. The Committee noted that the expert report submitted by Dr. Koffman mostly supported the MI's conclusions, with some exceptions.

While the Committee acknowledged that Dr. Koffman plans to make changes, they felt that given the significant concerns identified and the risk they pose to Dr. Koffman's patients, an education and remediation program, which includes clinical supervision, is necessary to further educate Dr. Koffman and protect her patients.

The Committee was further concerned by Dr. Koffman's extensive history with the College relating to issues similar to those raised in this matter, and that despite this previous involvement with the College Dr. Koffman continues to display deficiencies in her practice, suggesting that she has not sufficiently learned from her previous mistakes.

Given all of the above, the Committee determined that the education program outlined above was appropriate in the circumstances.